

Woodbury City Update

February 2022 • Volume 23, No. 2



Meet 'Otis,' Woodbury's community support dog

Christmas came a day early, when "Otis," Woodbury's first-ever community support dog, arrived at the Public Safety Department on Christmas Eve.

The English Golden Retriever puppy will serve three critical roles:

- **Internal support for Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS).** With the stressful nature of the profession, Otis will be available to help reduce the effects of trauma and stress in the workplace. When employees are struggling, Otis can help provide some relief.
- **Call or incident based response.** Unfortunately, Woodbury residents will inevitably experience traumatic events. Certified therapy response to incidents has proven to ease the effects of these events and provide some comfort to victims in times of need.
- **Community outreach and engagement.** Each year, the Public Safety Department makes it a priority to participate in several community events. With Otis joining officers at these events, he can help Public Safety staff build relationships with the community that might not be bridged otherwise.

The Woodbury Police K9 Fund, a local non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds to support the Woodbury Police K9 program, donated the funds for Otis and his first-year expenses.

"Our goal with Otis is to support every person who works for the city, as well as community members," said Sgt. Natalie Bauer, who oversees Woodbury's K9 Unit and assists with Otis' obedience training. "When we have stressful days, which are bound to happen, Otis can ease just a little bit of stress, simply by being there. This is a new concept for Woodbury, and we are committed to ensuring it is successful."

Otis was bred and tested to become a therapy dog, and the goal is he eventually becomes a certified therapy dog. His primary handler will be Police Det. Adam Sack, with a secondary handler team made up of three other police officers. The group will make it a priority to be available as much as possible.

Otis was named by fifth-graders at St. Ambrose Catholic School in Woodbury after suggestions were accepted from all fifth-grade classrooms in Woodbury.

Apply now for summer seasonal jobs with the city

Seasonal employment opportunities are now available at the City of Woodbury. Summer positions last from three to six months and are available for our maintenance, golf course and recreation programs.

Positions available include:

- Pee wee sports coach
- Puppet wagon puppeteers
- Playground program leaders
- Camp Carver leaders
- Recreation program assistant
- Lifeguard
- HealthEast Sports Center summer outdoor fields attendant
- Youth sports instructors for tennis, soccer, t-ball, etc.
- Maintenance in the Parks and Forestry Divisions with responsibilities including athletic fields, forestry, horticulture, irrigation, mowing, building cleaning, trash/recycling duties and more (three-month and six-month positions available).
- Maintenance in the Utilities Division with responsibilities including hydrant flushing, gate valve exercising, gate valve repair, lawn care, and general utility maintenance. Time can be used toward

earning water or sewer licensing (three-month and six-month positions available).

- Maintenance in the Streets Division with duties including street and stormwater maintenance, signs and traffic control maintenance (three-month and six-month positions available).

There are also several positions available at Eagle Valley Golf Course including:

- Golf course maintenance worker
- Golf shop attendant
- Food and beverage attendant (must be at least 18 years old)
- Starter/ranger
- Outside service
- Maintenance intern
- Spray technician

The minimum age requirement is 16 for golf course and recreation positions. Applicants for the Utilities, Streets and Parks maintenance positions must be at least 18 years old.

Interested individuals should apply online at woodburymn.gov. Select the green "Employment" button on the home page. Call 651-714-3500 or email hr@woodburymn.gov with any questions.



Lifeguards needed for Camp Carver this summer.



Council Perspective

By Mayor Anne Burt

Public Safety collaboration curtails crime

A few residents reached out to me recently asking about crime in our community. I want tell you about some recent crimes across the Twin Cities, including Woodbury, and share more about what we are doing in the areas of crime prevention and enforcement.

While incidents have been more frequent since last summer, you may be hearing more about local crime because we are doing a better job sharing crime information with you, particularly through our social media accounts. Sharing this information in a timely way plays a critical role in crime prevention. It also helps us get ahead of rumors and hearsay circling around other social media accounts, particularly private Facebook groups. We feel it is important the community receive this information straight from the source, especially since our former local newspaper, the Woodbury Bulletin, went out of business in 2020. We don't want to make you feel unsafe or uneasy by sharing this information. We share it because it can prevent crime and protect property.

Last summer, there were 21 unlocked vehicles reported stolen from Woodbury in a three-week span, with an additional seven reported attempts where unlocked vehicles were entered. Of the 21 vehicles stolen, 14 were taken from driveways and seven from garages – all during daytime hours.

Two of the more serious cases in the last year were carjackings. While this may not seem like a lot, we do know how traumatic these events were for the two victims. I'm grateful to our Public Safety professionals for their work in investigating, identifying and apprehending suspects responsible for the various crimes, and their collabora-

tion with the Washington County Attorney's Office to ensure charges are brought to court.

Engaged communities are safe communities!

However, arrests alone cannot curb crime – thieves are roaming the Twin Cities looking for opportunities, such as unattended cars running or simply checking for unlocked cars for things to steal. Sometimes they get lucky and find keys inside, or make off with a wallet, purse, or other items. They are brazen enough to enter open garages as well.

We need to remove the opportunities, even if it means giving up some convenience. Leaving cars running for a quick dash into a store or business, not locking vehicles, leaving keys in vehicles and leaving garage doors open are all simple things we as residents can take a moment to change to deter theft. Key fobs (proximity fobs) left in vehicles or vehicles left running regardless of where the key fob is seems to be a reoccurring theme with auto thefts as well. Please continue to be vigilant about keeping vehicles locked, garage doors down, and interesting items out of vehicles – especially keys from vehicles, even if the vehicle is parked inside the garage.

Patrols and enforcement

Our Public Safety Department, along with area law enforcement partners, have been working hard to mitigate this criminal behavior. Increased marked and unmarked patrol cars in targeted areas, special enforcement and investigative details, technology resources and collaboration among patrol and investigators around the Twin Cities are all tools being used to catch the perpetrators.

A number of arrests were made in January, and many stolen vehicles were recovered around the Twin Cities. Woodbury Public Safety and our law enforcement partners will continue to work hard to make arrests, and the Washington County Attorney's Office will continue to prosecute, but we do need help from the community. Follow the tips above and call 911 to report suspicious activity. Working together with our partners – our residents, businesses and our Public Safety partners – we can help prevent crime.

We have been working with Washington County (both the Sheriff's Office and county attorney), Cottage Grove and Oakdale, and share strategies and information with all the police agencies in our county as well as our Ramsey County neighbors.

There's more work to do, and we're thankful for the great collaboration and dedication by our public safety partners throughout the Twin Cities area, especially with the Washington County Sheriff's Office, Cottage Grove, Oakdale, Maplewood, St. Paul, Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, and the Minnesota State Patrol.

For more crime prevention tips and other initiatives by the Woodbury Police Department, visit woodburymn.gov/CrimePrevention.

How can you help curb crime?

The best way to protect yourself and your neighbors is to make it a little harder for thieves to make you a victim. Here are some prevention tips you can follow.

- Keep doors locked whenever in your vehicle and remember to lock it when you leave.
- Keep keys and other valuables with you.
- Close garage doors and make sure to lock the garage service door.
- If you have to park outside, do not leave your garage door opener in the car.
- Keep your eyes up and away from distractions, such as mobile phones.
- Walk and park in well-lit populated areas.
- Walk with others when possible.
- Carry keys and be ready to make a quick entry.
- Trust your instincts – if something doesn't feel right, it most likely isn't. Drive or walk away.

The Woodbury newsletter is published 10 times per year by the City of Woodbury and mailed to all residents and businesses. Send comments to: Woodbury City Hall, 8301 Valley Creek Road, Woodbury, MN 55125-3330. Phone: 651-714-3500. Email: jason.egerstrom@woodburymn.gov.

Mayor: Anne Burt. Council Members: Andrea Date, Steve Morris, Jennifer Santini and Kim Wilson. City Administrator: Clint Gridley. Communications Manager: Jason Egerstrom.

The City of Woodbury is subject to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. In accordance with the act, the Woodbury newsletter is available in other formats. Call Jason Egerstrom, 651-714-3500; TDD: 651-714-3568.

Free, family-friendly events at Central Park

Enjoy free musical entertainment at Central Park! Experience a wide-variety of family-friendly musical acts from jazz to rock at the indoor amphitheater. No reservations required.

Dirty Shorts Brass Band, jazz
Sunday, Feb. 27, at 2 p.m.

Matt Hannah, folk music
Sunday, March 27, at 2 p.m.

ForEver Young, swing, jazz, rock
Sunday, April 24, at 2 p.m.

Classic Brass Quintet, classical
Sunday, May 1, at 2 p.m.

Central Park Pet Expo

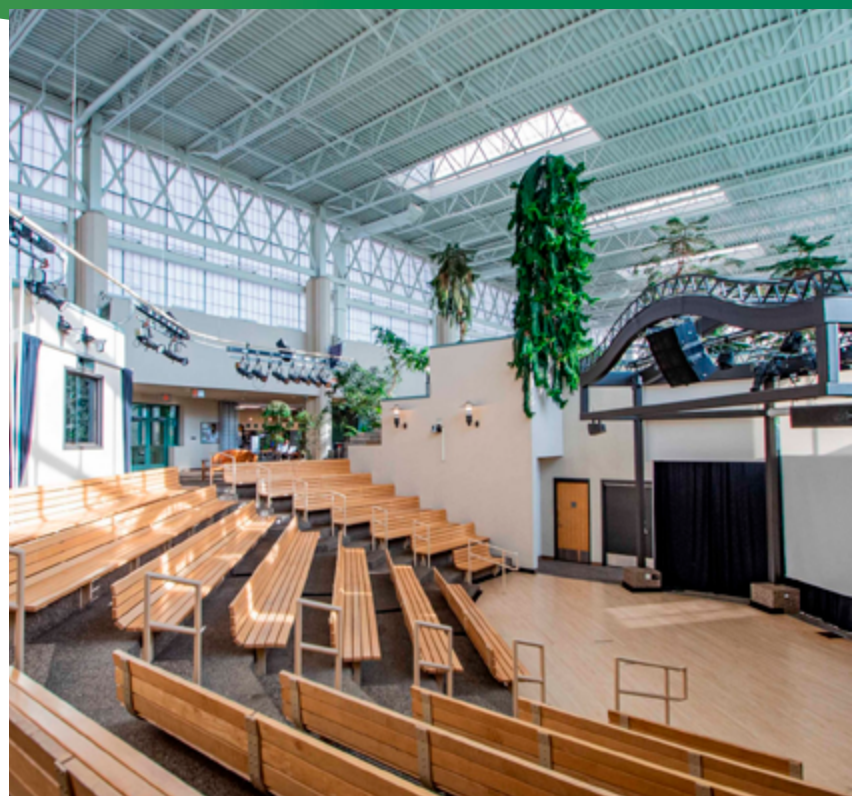
Pet enthusiasts and local pet businesses can meet with a variety of organizations to learn about local pet opportunities. The free event will take place

on Saturday, Feb. 26, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For safety reasons, no personal pets will be allowed at this event. Interested vendors should email jennifer.anderson@woodburymn.gov.

Woodbury Central Park is located at 8595 Central Park Place.

Masks recommended

The City of Woodbury does not have a mask mandate in place. The city will continue to follow the current COVID-19 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations. In alignment with these guidelines, the City of Woodbury is now recommending everyone two years or older – fully vaccinated and unvaccinated – wear a well-fitted mask in all indoor city facilities.



Stay connected with the City of Woodbury

Be an informed and engaged resident by connecting with the City of Woodbury!

The city maintains an ongoing, multi-faceted communications program using a variety of print and electronic tools. Residents and businesses can stay up-to-date with the latest happenings around Woodbury by connecting with the city in ways that best fit your lifestyle.

Current city communications vehicles include:

Woodbury website (woodburymn.gov): Access meeting agendas and learn about upcoming projects and initiatives. Plus, access online tools such as recreation registration, utility bill pay, job applications and more.

Woodbury City Update: Read this printed newsletter, mailed to all residents and businesses 10 times a year. Special inserts are included throughout the year, including the GreenTimes environmental insert and the annual Performance Measurement Report.

Email notification: Sign up to receive email notifications with news and information about a variety of topics, including upcoming community events and services.

Video/TV/Livestream: Watch video content produced by the South Washington County Telecommunications Commission (SWCTC), including broadcasts of City Council meetings and some advisory commission meetings on Channel 16 (Comcast only). These meetings, along with other fun and interesting videos about city services and events, also is available on demand at on the city's YouTube channel.

Parks and Recreation brochure: Browse a detailed collection of recreation program offerings typically mailed to all residents and businesses three times a year in March, August and November.

CodeRED: Receive emergency notifications with the CodeRED emergency telephone calling system. The system uses the 911 database for its notification lists. To add or change a number, including adding a mobile phone number, or to opt for a text message and/or email alert, self-register at woodburymn.gov/codered.

Facebook: Follow one or all of the city's seven Facebook pages, including general city news, HealthEast Sports Center, Eagle Valley Golf Course, Parks and Recreation, Adult Athletics,



East Metro Miracle League and Public Safety.

Twitter: Follow one or all of the four Twitter accounts operated by the city, including general city news, Public Safety, HealthEast Sports Center and Eagle Valley Golf Course.

Instagram: Check out behind-the-scenes images of activities and events from around the community.

Nextdoor: Receive helpful community updates with alerts from the city's Nextdoor page. Residents who use the Nextdoor app can watch their feed for updates, some that may be neighborhood specific. Learn more and create a Nextdoor account at nextdoor.com.

To access all of these platforms, visit woodburymn.gov/Connect.

State of the City video premieres March 3 at Central Park

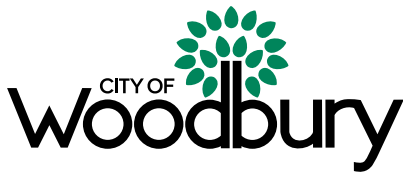
Come meet and speak with Woodbury Mayor Anne Burt and watch her annual State of the City video address Thursday, March 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the amphitheater at Central Park, 8595 Central Park Place. The event is free and all are welcome to attend.

The video presentation – which is expected to be about 15 minutes long – will feature updates about water, development, city projects, policing and much more.

Mayor Burt will be available in person to take questions from the audience at the end of her video presentation.

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dog in Public Safety**
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Clean up after your pet

City ordinances require pet owners to carry supplies for excrement removal when walking a pet off their property. All messes on public property, including the off-leash dog park, or on the private property of others must be cleaned up.

Postal Patron
Woodbury, MN

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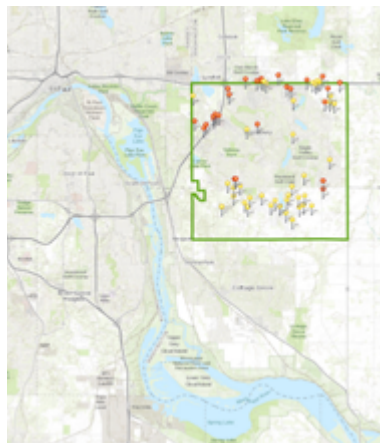
Website map showcases development activity

Have you driven past a construction site in Woodbury recently and found yourself wondering, "What are they building over there?"

The answers to these questions – and more development related information – can be found on the city's online development map at woodburymn.gov/DevelopmentMap.

Additionally, you may opt to receive an InTouch email notification when new projects are added to the development map. To sign up, visit woodburymn.gov/InTouch and select the "New residential and commercial developments" list.

Items are placed on the development map once a development application is made to the city. Later, more specific information about a project



is added following the City Council approval process.

For more information about development in the city, view the online development map or contact the Planning Division at 651-714-3533 or planning@woodburymn.gov.

Reserve a park shelter or building

Looking for a place to hold a graduation party, family reunion, business meeting or celebration in 2022? Woodbury's outdoor park shelters and buildings are now available to rent.

The City of Woodbury also offers many different locations and spaces suitable for groups of all sizes at Central Park, Eagle Valley Golf Course, Ojibway Park and HealthEast Sports Center.

Please note: Full payment and damage deposits will be required at the time of reservation. Any changes and cancellations will be subject to cancellation policies printed on each receipt.

Call the Parks and Recreation Department at 651-714-3583 for more information or reserve online at woodburymn.gov/ParkRentals.

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